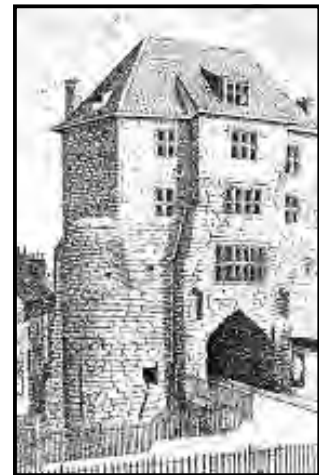


NEWS BULLETIN

THE SOCIETY OF ANTIQUARIES OF NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE

No. 35: DECEMBER 2003



WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

The Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle upon Tyne is one of the country's oldest antiquarian societies, founded in 1812. We have a regular programme of lectures and events, a learned journal, a library, and collections housed in several museums around the region. We also lease the Castle Keep and the Black Gate from the City Council.

Subjects for our monthly lectures range from prehistoric excavations to food history and garden history. During the summer months, there are Country Meetings – visits to places of interest by coach. There are also Country Walks throughout the year.

Every ten years, the Society organises a week-long Hadrian's Wall Pilgrimage in conjunction with the Archaeological and Antiquarian Society of Cumberland and Westmorland, at the other end of the Wall.

*As well as this twice-yearly Newsbulletin, the Society has an academic journal, *Archaeologia Aeliana*, and publishes occasional monographs.*

The Society's books, thirty thousand volumes or more, are housed in the Library at the Black Gate. Opening hours are Wed 2-4pm, Thur 5-7pm and Sat 10am-12 noon. Volunteers to help out are always welcome. Our collections, once in the Black Gate Museum, are now mainly in the Museum of Antiquities, the Bagpipe Museum at Morpeth, and the Castle Keep.

Contact the Membership Secretary for more information at The Black Gate, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 1RQ, phone 0191 261 5390. Our e-mail address is admin@newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk, and our website is www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk

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PLANS FOR THE MUSEUM OF ANTIQUITIES

Our Society's Museum is one of the most important in the country, regularly given ratings comparable to the Ashmolean and the Fitzwilliam. It has been growing for nearly 200 years, and contains many of the key pieces of northern and national history, particularly in connection with the Roman Wall.

Since the early 1960s, we have jointly administered the Museum with the University of Newcastle, under a series of distinguished Keepers. Our present Keeper, Lindsay Allason-Jones, has hugely expanded the museum's activities through skilful use of the



Computer image of the how the Hancock Museum might look, within the University of Newcastle's new Northern Museum project. Picture; courtesy University of Newcastle

Web and award-winning projects with schools – all this alongside her television appearances and presidency of the Royal Archaeological Institute!

However, the museum has always suffered by being too small and being tucked away in the middle of the University. Now a new project is being launched, which will give the collections the setting they deserve. What is planned is a new mega-museum housing the collections which are at present scattered across the University campus – natural history, Greek archaeology, and fine art as well as our archaeological holdings. The new museum will be focussed in the area around the present Hancock Museum. The designs for displaying these incredibly rich collections are quite stunning.

All will depend on success in the applications to the Heritage Lottery Fund and other sources of finance. The Society's Council is keeping a close eye on the detailed negotiations. The plans chime perfectly with those ideals our Society has pursued for the last 200 years – proper care for the collection and encouragement of a widespread and enthusiastic understanding of our heritage.

Richard Bailey

ANNIVERSARY MEETING

As usual, we will be having a social event after the January meeting. This will be on Wednesday 29th January, in the Wood Memorial Hall (on the first floor of the Mining

Institute) There will be wine and food. A small donation (around £1) will be requested from those who want a glass of wine.

Donations of food will be gratefully accepted. Contact Freda Thompson, our social secretary on 0191 285 5303, to tell her what you will be bringing.

HOSTING PARTIES AFTER MONTHLY MEETINGS

After each monthly meeting, a group of interested people go for a meal with the speaker at a local restaurant. The Society pays for the speaker's meal, while everyone else pays for their own. If any members are interested in joining particular hosting parties, contact Kay Simpson, the Secretary of the Activities Committee, at 48 Bideford Road, Newcastle upon Tyne NE3 4UQ.

Kay will then pass on your name and telephone number to the host for the relevant meeting, who will get in touch.

LOST CARDI

Someone left a natty dark blue cardigan behind after the October meeting. If it is yours, please ring or e-mail our membership secretary, Sarah Walter, to reclaim it.

GIFT AID

David Hide, our Treasurer, has recently written to all the 250 people who had not signed Gift Aid forms. Once a form has been completed, the Society can reclaim the income tax paid on your subscription. So the Society receives additional income, without any additional pain for you!

David has had responses from around 100 people, and has been able to reclaim £1,300 in tax – some of it going back as far as April 2000. That still leaves a large number of people who have not responded, though. If you have received one of David's letters, and have not replied, then do please take five minutes to sign the form, shove it in the stamped addressed envelope he supplied, and put it in the post.

INDOOR MEETINGS



Helen Berry, of the Institute of Historical Studies in Durham, who will be one of our speakers in the 2004 season of meetings

For 2004, we are making a feature of the Early Modern period with three lectures on different themes.

Peter Brears will talk on how food was prepared and served in Tudor houses; Diana Newton considers how Newcastle developed as the regional capital; and Helen Berry looks at how polite society emerged in the 18th century.

We complete a Belsay trilogy when Peter Ryder takes a look at the castle. Grace McCombie spoke in 2002 on the building of the hall. In the vote of thanks, David Sherlock commented that the Society, in all its years, had never had Belsay in its lecture programme. Well, the trilogy, in which Stephen Anderton's public lecture this November was sandwiched in the middle, is the response to this comment.

From hall to village, when Rob Young reports progress on a Northumberland National Park project to compile an atlas of historic villages. It is some time since we have had a lecture which concentrates on artefact studies, and so this year Alan Vince will look at Early Medieval Northumbria in the light of his studies of pottery.

The Society's various archives are valuable historical sources in their own right and this year we draw upon them for two lectures. Johnnie Handle, well known in folk music circles, opens the year with a look at the archive of local songs. This, the second musical item in successive years, complements Kim Bibby-Wilson on the bagpipes at the beginning of 2003. James Cox will give the second of the archive-based lectures. He is working with volunteers from the Society in the Archives for All project and will speak on its progress.

For blue skies we turn to Egypt and to Karnac where Angus Graham is conducting research on harbours. Lindsay Allason-Jones brings the year's programme to a close with

urban angst in Roman Britain. The Public Lecture will be in October and the lecturer Norman McCord – who needs no introduction. Please note a change of venue for 2004, to the historic Brunswick Methodist Church, Brunswick Place (off Northumberland Street, down by the side of Fenwicks).

The lecturers are the stars but the show wouldn't be the same without the supporting cast of openers of discussion and voters of thanks. Thanks to all who have contributed in these roles during 2003.

Colm O'Brien
Indoor Meetings Secretary

OUR WEBSITE

The Society's web site (www.newcastle-antiquaries.org.uk) has undergone a change of management. Hermann Moisl has managed the site through its infancy and brought it into the comprehensive state it is today. Tom Chadwin has now taken over responsibility, and hopes to be able to build on Hermann's work and develop it further. He has already added a search facility, and is looking to make the site easier to update.

NEW MEMBERSHIP LEAFLET



The summer saw the membership secretary hard at work on the production of a brand new, all colour, membership leaflet. This covers all the Society's various activities, along with a number of photos of our members having fun! If you would like a copy, or two, to distribute to potential new members please contact Sarah Walter at the Black Gate (0191 261 5390), or drop in and pick them up.

Bill Griffiths

RETIREMENT OF RON HAYES MBE DCM



Ron Hayes, with his medals and Remembrance Day wreath. Picture courtesy of Dilys Cowper, his daughter

After 17 years of working at the Castle Keep, meeting and greeting visitors from all over the world, Ron Hayes has announced his retirement at the age of 83.

We have all heard the expression “Been there, got the t-shirt”. In Ron’s case it should read “Been there, got the medal!” After a distinguished career in the Army, where he attained the rank of Regimental Sergeant Major, there doesn’t seem to be anywhere that Ron has not been whether it be Far East, Middle East, Africa or Europe. This has made Ron a very popular member of our team at the Keep and the ideal person to welcome our overseas visitors to our beautiful city. Ron must be one of perhaps only a handful of men who fought at both Dunkirk and on the beaches on D Day. The events and experiences of those times remain with Ron and he takes an active role with the Royal British Legion. He is Chairman and President of his local Branch in Jesmond, and on Remembrance Sunday in November he took the salute at Grey’s Monument.

We wish Ron a long and happy retirement and there will always be a cup of tea waiting for him if he pops in to visit us at the Keep!

Pat Blue

MID-NORTHUMBRIAN DIALECT

The Society has given a grant to the Northumbrian Language Society to help with the publication, in book and CD formats, of *The Mid-Northumbrian Dialect* by Thomas Moody of Amble (1901–1970). The book is also acting as a springboard for a research

project on current rural dialects, to be carried out in partnership with the English Department of Newcastle University. Other grants towards the project have come from the Alnwick Area Committee of Northumberland County Council and the Catherine Cookson Foundation.

Moody’s book is a detailed 700-page dictionary of the dialect of the area from Alnwick to Morpeth and from Rothbury to Amble, as spoken during the first half of the 20th century. It provides a valuable link between the linguistic studies of Brockett and Heslop in the 19th century and current researches, and is also a unique and very beautiful artefact in its own right. Moody’s research is extensive, with a scholarly historical introduction, copious examples of sources, appendices on childhood games and songs. Originally two volumes finely hand-written in two colours, the book includes maps, musical scores and line drawings to illustrate topics such as agriculture, coal-mining and fishing terminology, domestic objects. The plan is for the printed book to reproduce the illustrations, with a few full-colour facsimile pages reproducing full-page drawings and text pages to indicate the nature of the calligraphy. The project was launched on 11th October in Morpeth, at the NLS annual lecture, which this year marked that society’s 20th anniversary.

Kim Bibby Wilson

THE COIN COLLECTION AND ITS CATALOGUE



The Society’s Coin Collection includes over 7000 items, catalogued in sixteen different groups. The first of these, however, is not in fact in the Society’s physical possession – it is a selection of rare and valuable coins from several different categories, and we keep them in the vaults of a local bank. Also in this group are coins which have been published but not indexed, such as the Whittonstall Hoard of mediaeval coins.

Group 2 is Greek Autonomous and Imperial, and Roman Colonial, while Group 3 is

coins from the Roman Republic, and Group 4, coins from the Roman Empire. Group 5 covers the Vandals, Ostrogoths and Byzantine Empire. Group 6 is Celtic, Group 7 Anglo-Saxon and Danish, and Group 8. Anglo Saxon

Moving into later times, Group 9 is Official National Coins from the Norman period to the reign of Elizabeth II, and Group 10 Scottish coins up to the Union of the Crowns. Group 11 is Irish coins until the founding of the Irish Free State. Then on a different tack, Group 12 is Maundy Money, Group 13, Traders Tokens from the 17th to the 20th centuries, and Group 14 Commemorative medals. Group 15 is and 16 are catch alls – respectively “Miscellaneous Items” and “Foreign Coins other than those listed above”.

This grouping was decided on in 1932, when the manuscript catalogue was first compiled. The principles were agreed by the Coin Committee which existed from 1932 to its disbandment in 1937. The Keeper of Coins at the time was Gilbert Askew, and the other members of his committee were Lt.Col. C.R.B.Spain, Thomas Wake, Percy Hedley and J.D. Cowan.

At its very first meeting the committee agreed a “Provisional Scheme” for the arrangement of the Society’s collection of Coins, and this still applies today. The agreed procedure was

- When a coin is donated to the Society it should be placed in an envelope endorsed with reasonably clear details. If there are several coins they should be placed in a box and detailed as above.
- An index card should be made for each coin, with a Special Indicator Number, and details of nationality and type, the issuer and date, denomination, metal and condition, Obverse and Reverse legends and description, and the donor and relevant standard reference.
- A list of any coins donated or acquired should be completed giving brief details of the coins and donor, and if possible this should appear in Proceedings – now-a-days that would be the News Bulletin or *Archaeologia Aeliana*.
- The coins should then be put in the appropriate place in the collection, with a label quoting the reference to the accessions in the published record. This

reference can be an abbreviated character in front of the index special indicator. Thus “S” may refer to Captain Swan’s gift, or “DN” may refer to the Duke of Northumberland’s gift. Some appropriate character could be on the Index Special Card Indicator if it refers to a coin already in the collection (e.g. “R” for Roman, “Misc” or a date for a casual accession). A number should then follow indicating the place of the coin in the list.

- Finally, each coin should be included in the M/S Coin Catalogue which should be of a loose leaf system and should provide ready reference to any given item, its Index Card and its place in the appropriate Coin Cabinet. A short explanatory note will precede each group as it is listed in the catalogue

The 1930s committee suggested that each group should be housed in one of five particular cabinets, this is now not practicable. Several of the groups have items of widely differing dimensions, so each item is deposited in a cabinet with cells of an appropriate size.

A.E Gilmour
Keeper of coins

COUNTRY MEETINGS, 2004

As usual, we will have three Country Meetings during 2004. We will be setting off rather later than in the past, 9.30 am, to allow members a more leisurely start to the day.

On **8th May** we will set off westward for Cumbria. Thanks to the Dowager Lady Egremont we can explore the substantial remains of Cockermouth Castle, and then see a little of that attractive town. We go on to Abbeytown, where the surviving fragment of the once great Holme Cultram Abbey now serves as the parish church. It has a notable Norman west doorway. The day will end with a visit to Silloth, laid out elegantly as a port and resort in mid-Victorian times.

The meeting on **10th July** heads into Dumfriesshire, visiting Caerlaverock Castle, the famous Anglian cross at Ruthwell, and the enjoyable house of Rammerscales, built around 1760 for a retired physician to the imperial Russian court known as Dr ‘Rhubarb’ Mounsey.

On **4th September** we are in North Yorkshire, taking in the abbey at Jervaulx, unspoiled



The Ruthwell Cross in Dumfriesshire, one of the highlights of the Country Meeting on 10th July

by the sometimes heavy hand of English Heritage, the small castle at Snape (or at least its chapel), and the Jacobean Kiplin Hall.

In one or two visits our numbers are restricted, so when the application forms come out in the Spring mailing, please book quickly. As to costs, we shall do our best to keep them down, and more members taking part will help.

Tom Corfe
Country Meetings Secretary

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS 2003

The Black Gate was once again open for all four days of this year's Heritage Open Days event (13th–16th September). The Keep participated on the Saturday and Sunday.

In the Black Gate, the public were given supervised access to the North and South Guardrooms and to the Members' Room with its displays, music boxes and publications for sale. This year, with an eye to impending disabled access legislation, we offered partial wheelchair access by means of a ramp at the steps in front of the Black Gate allowing access to the passageway and the

Guardrooms. Although we had only one (very appreciative) wheelchair user, other ambulatory disabled visitors and families with pushchairs found the ramp a great benefit. It will be improved, and stored in the South Guardroom for future use.

The Keep offered a novelty attraction by installing a Dalek in the Chapel, perhaps making the point that, like the Tardis, there is more inside the Keep than appears from the outside! There was a colouring competition, and two life-sized medieval 'peephole' characters painted by Pat Blue. A new exhibition was mounted on the theme 'Crime and Punishment on Tyneside' with particular emphasis on the Castle and Castle Garth, largely using information and images collected by the Warden, Paul MacDonald.

Visitor numbers over the four days were similar to last year, at nearly 1,000 for each building. This is gratifying, since more properties than ever were participating this year, so that HODS devotees had to spread themselves more thinly. Some 'regulars' reappeared, but for many this was a new and unique opportunity to get inside the Black Gate and enjoy one of the city's most historic buildings.

Comments in the Visitors' Books once again show that our participation in HODS is greatly appreciated. Visitors also found the Society members on duty were able to help interpret the Castle as a whole, and offer information on other heritage sites in the town. We will do it all again next year!

John Nolan



For those spent their childhoods cowering behind the sofa while Dr Who took on the Daleks, a rare sighting of the enemy in captivity. Picture, courtesy of owner and builder Manson Goldsmith. Built to plans provided by the BBC – the half spheres on the bottom half of the Dalek are made from ball-cocks!

A PLEA TO LOCAL BOOK COLLECTORS

Society member Jim Hedley has asked whether anyone has the following items, which he wants to fill gaps in his own collection;

- Bell (Thomas) Catalogue of his books and manuscripts in his library. Foster, Newcastle 1860.
- Archaeology in Northumberland 1993/1994. Northumberland County Council.
- Rawlinson (Robert) Report to the General Board of Health on Sewerage, Drainage and Water Supply in Hexham HMSO 1853.
- Reedwetter Review Vol. 1 Jan and April 1917 also Reedwetter Vol. 1 1973.

He would also be interested in getting in touch with other Society members who are collectors of local books. For anyone interested in making contact, his e-mail address is jim@jimhedley.freemove.co.uk

THOMAS BEWICK DAY

Shall I be remembered by the Antiquaries, or by any other group, on the 250th anniversary of my birth? A silly question, of course! But for a rare few, their memory is preserved and who continue in later centuries to contribute to our knowledge and to the pleasure and interest of life, and Thomas Bewick (1753–1828) was one of them.

David Gardner-Medwin and Hugh Dixon devoted a whole day in June (plus, no doubt, a considerable amount of time in preparation) to sharing their extensive knowledge and infectious enthusiasm with us. In St Nicholas' churchyard the bustle of late eighteenth century life was vividly conjured up. Within yards of where Cardinal Hume's statue now stands we imagined ourselves back in a world of cottages, gardens and green fields, dominated by the city walls and the Gunnerton tower. We walked the streets and saw buildings as Bewick himself would have seen them.

At Ovingham, Frank and Joan Atkinson generously allowed us to explore their partly mediaeval former vicarage, the scene of Bewick's schooldays. We heard about some of the escapades of his youth and we viewed family graves in the churchyard.

Then on to Cherryburn, the boyhood and family home which always remained so vividly in his mind. Imagine a modern teenager

walking twelve miles home from Newcastle on a Sunday, finding the Tyne in spate and the ferry not running, so shouting a greeting across the river and walking back again! As artist, naturalist, wood engraver, with keen powers of observation and a meticulous eye for detail – plus a marvellous sense of humour – Bewick was also blessed with intelligence, sound business sense, physical fitness, great strength of character, a happy family life and many friends. What a man! What a splendid day, learning more about him from people to whom his memory means so much.

Oh, and he engraved the society's seal.

David Hide

HOW TO BECOME A HON LIBRARIAN



Denis Peel, our Librarian (on left, facing speaker) listening attentively at the recent Archives for All event. Picture; courtesy James Cox

Twenty five years ago, I found myself on the Library and Museums Committee at a time when the new librarian, George Wilson, found himself with a large backlog of unlisted books from the Gibson bequest. Volunteers were asked to help. George made the classic statement “a lunchtime a week should suffice” and in the classic manner I fell for it. I found an hour in the quiet of the library once a week a great change from the busy and noisy NHS laboratory where I worked. Nobody could get me in those heady days before beeps and mobile phones, and the Black Gate did not even have a telephone. George had intended to retire and carry on as librarian, but a sudden change of plan took him to Alston and within a short time I found myself in post.

There had to be a quick learning process as

I could not understand the ledger system in use at the time for accessing journals. I decided to use a card index and to rearrange the books in alphabetical order according to title. At the same time, I would create ten years of accession space by moving old, “dead” runs and foreign periodicals to the store. This process involved taking all the journals off the shelves at once, filling all the floor space, listing them and re-shelving according to the new plan. Thankfully this was completed in a few weeks with the willing help of a band of equally mad volunteers.

Minor problems were the like of how does one shelve “Antiquities of Sunderland”. Should it be under “A” or “S”. I favoured “S”. There was some disagreement in professional circles about this but luckily the Sunderland Society resolved the issue by changing it to “Sunderland’s History”. This process also revealed the irritating practice of some publishers issuing journals in parts, so one never knows how many parts to expect without some research. Other Societies, including our own, still stick to Roman Numerals, with which I personally find no problem, but computers certainly do when trying to sort. eg C, CI,...D, ...I, II, III,IV, IX, M... VI, VII, VIII, etc! Still one of the Prehistoric Publications has now dropped Ogams which I am sure is a blessing. Needless to say, the ten years soon passed and all the space was filled. So more shelves were arranged and ten more years passed and the space was again filled, We are now on our third ten year plan.

In about 1982 I thought “what about putting the catalogue on computer”. I suggested to Council that we buy one for about £5000, probably £15000 in today’s terms, and a few lead balloons fell. In 1985, when unemployment was rife, through the hard work of Ken Charlton, a Manpower Service Commission project to recatalogue the whole library was set up. The Society employed two full time cataloguers, and four part time typists for two years. Unfortunately funds and foresight still did not go as far as computerisation, and the two years came to an end in 1987 before the task was finished. By and large the backlog is now completed with a full shelf, author/ title and subject catalogue of all single volume monographs. Periodicals were not covered by the scheme and they are now computerised using Microsoft Access.

When the roof of the Black Gate had to

come off in 2001, the opportunity to clear out was too good to be missed, Anything found that was not a printed work was sent to the record office where it is now being listed by James Cox and his band leaving a newly carpeted, warm and spacious library. During the winter there will be a complete book check of the library followed next summer by the storeroom.

I find that borrowers fall into four categories;

- those who sign out and return within three months. They get an email sent to St Peter and free brasso;
- those who sign out and do not return the books and go off to outer Mongolia or Morpeth for long periods where they are incommunicado.
- those who borrow, do not return and then pass away. This is very sad, and sometimes their books are just house-cleared away. So anyone contemplating this route please return your books first.
- The last lot forget to record anything and just disappear. Beware! I have second sight and recently recovered a book from a distant land where it had been residing for 20 years in good condition save a slight whisky aroma.

I now record all borrowings on a computer, making life much easier. This has borne results which have nothing to do with the display of thumb screws on the stairs. So incidents for brasso are increasing.

Denis Peel
Librarian

MAPPING THE WALL

This June I attended a meeting in the offices of UNESCO to discuss the proposed nomination of the Roman frontier in Germany as a World Heritage Site. UNESCO officials suggested that the maps of the German frontier could be improved, on the lines of the map which accompanied the Hadrian’s Wall nomination. The officials argued that there should be a distinction indicated between what is visible, what is not visible but known, what is only presumed, and what is destroyed. Alas, I thought, the recommended map of Hadrian’s Wall does not provide all that information – indeed, no one map of Hadrian’s Wall does so.

As a result, I have been walking the Wall with

three maps in hand, the first edition of the OS map of Hadrian's Wall (1964), the second edition (1972) and the current 1:25000 map of the area. The first edition is better for indicating visibility, the second for the location of Vallum crossings, but neither offers information on what is known but not visible. The current OS Explorer maps are useful in providing a range of other information, including footpaths. The third edition of the OS map of Hadrian's Wall contains less archaeological information than its predecessors, and so I have tended to ignore it.

There are differences between the first and second editions: in the second, crossings of the Vallum are marked while the colour of some sites has been changed. Yet the key is the same on both editions: black signifies "extant or identifiable"; red "course of". "Identifiable" must mean something other than "extant", which presumably means "visible". It therefore ought to mean "has been identified through excavation or survey". Yet often such sites are coloured red, eg MC 79 (Solway House), where they are not visible. MC 79 is also an example of the other problem. The site of the milecastle is identifiable as a low (very low) mound. The OS has a height determinator before it will mark a site on a map (300mm high). MC 79 does not meet this bench-mark, but its site is still identifiable. The Vallum is clearly visible today in two places near MC 79, and marked as such on the first edition, but the colour has changed to red on the second!

There is no one map of Hadrian's Wall which provides up-to-date information on visibility or otherwise, knowledge acquired through survey or excavation, and destruction. Hadrian's Wall deserves such a map.

David Breeze

ARCHIVES (AND LUNCH) FOR ALL



One of the many watercolours from the Blair collection, currently being catalogued via the Archives for All project

Over forty Society volunteers and guests assembled at the Black Gate on November 1st for a reception to review progress on our Archives for All Project.

As an appetiser, Gail Graham of English Heritage gave us a presentation on the daily fare our medieval ancestors might have enjoyed. She encouraged us to consider what we might be enjoying that was unknown or unavailable in medieval times – tomato and cucumber, for instance, our staple potato and carrots too, not to mention the delicious chocolate cake for dessert. Nor, probably, would our ancestors have known wine of the quality we take for granted today. That's not to say they didn't manage very well; many a banquet could put today's equivalent to shame. On the other hand, the lot of the poor, meaning most people, was often pitiable.

After a fine lunch, there was an opportunity to visit the Library upstairs. Dennis Peel gave us a short account of its history, useful in order to put the Archive Project in its proper perspective, as well as an opportunity for visitors to obtain a sense of the background and purpose of the Society.

Finally, James Cox gave an overview of the status of the Project. Here we could gain an idea of how the Archive is made up – bequests, maps and plans, letters, photographs and so forth; some parts such as the Blair Bequest form a unique collection unlikely to be surpassed in breadth and quality, and when fully catalogued will form an invaluable resource of universal interest.

Ultimately, when the catalogue is complete and transferred to a CALM (Collection management for Archives, Libraries and Museums) database, details of the entire collection will be available to any user. Images of some of the most interesting and attractive items will be available directly, while for the majority of items there will be a catalogue entry. There will be the potential to add additional images in the future.

Food for thought indeed. For those who weren't able to enjoy Gail's presentation, here is one of her medieval (and suitably seasonal) recipes which will give you a flavour...

Stuart Hill

CHRISTMAS MINCE PIE

<i>For the filling</i>	<i>For the pastry</i>
1½ lbs lean minced beef/mutton	1lb plain flour
½ teaspoon ground cloves	4 oz lard
½ teaspoon black pepper	4 tablespoons milk
2oz raisins	2 teaspoons salt
2oz chopped prunes	¼ pint water
4oz suet	
1 teaspoon ground mace	
Pinch saffron	
2 oz currants	
One beaten egg	
<i>For the glaze</i>	
1 tablespoon each of butter and sugar, melted together	

For the filling, mix together the meat, suet, spices and dried fruit.

For the pastry, sift the flour and salt together in a mixing bowl and make a 'well' in the centre. Heat the lard, water and milk together until boiling and then pour into the well. Quickly beat the mixture together with a wooden spoon to form a soft, hot dough and knead until smooth on a lightly floured board. Cut off a quarter of the dough and use the rest to line an 8" diameter by 2" deep, loose bottomed pie tin. Pack the meat mix in and make a lid from the remaining pastry, using egg to moisten the pie edges and pinching together to seal down. Cut a hole in the lid and decorate with left over pastry. Bake at 220C/425F/GM 7 for 15 minutes and then reduce to 180C/350F/GM 4 for a further 1¼ hours. Remove the pie from the tin and glaze before returning to the oven for 15 minutes. Serve cold.

Gail Graham

AND FINALLY ... SCRAPING THE BOTTOM

The Scraping the Bottom exhibition, held in the Museum of Antiquities earlier this year developed a life of its own – even after it has been taken down. The exhibition displayed a selection of the objects uncovered when the lake in Leazes Park was emptied as part of the HLF funded redevelopment. Visitor

figures soared as people with fond memories of the Park called in to see if they could spot something they might have dropped overboard as they boated round the lake or fished or picnicked around its edge.

These visitors were often residents of the Leazes area, some of whom had never realised that the Museum of Antiquities was open to the public! Others had travelled some distance; indeed, three people from Knaresborough (who had all been born near the Park) were so keen to see the exhibition that they turned up as we were still putting it up and had a very jolly afternoon helping us to choose what should go in the cases. Many thanks to them for their input.

We soon realised that the exhibition was reviving old memories. Some of these were too good to lose, so we placed a large book of blank paper by the exhibition and asked people to record their memories of the Park or the objects on display. Newcastle University didn't come out of this very well, as many memories were of students bunking off from lectures on hot summer days but many memories were poignant whilst others were very funny. My favourite was from a gentleman who wrote: 'About 1965 my brother and his family were boating on the lake when their hired boat sprang a leak. As the boat owner called for them to paddle back quickly to shore, he and his friends stood to attention and saluted as the boat went down. They then waded to shore'.

Several of the comments gave rise to much speculation. In May a gentleman wrote in the book: 'Sorry to see that nobody recovered my father's hammer from the bottom of the lake. Spear and Jackson No 3, in case you were wondering'. Our wonderment was more along the lines of how the hammer got in the lake in the first place.

Sadly, all good temporary exhibitions have to come to an end and this was no exception. However, it popped up again in October for just one day. A local film company, Groovy Films, had been inspired by the exhibition and decided to use it as the basis for a five minute romantic comedy. So everything went back into position so that the film could be made. The Museum staff are now looking forward to being invited to their first film premiere but they are also wondering what Scraping the Bottom will do next.

Lindsay Allason-Jones

LIBRARY ACQUISITIONS 2003

As you will see from the list below, we have had a busy (and enjoyable) time adding books to the Library this year. However, if anyone has suggestions for further items you think we should acquire, please let me know.

Denis Peel

Name	Title
Alcock Leslie	Kings and Warriors, Craftsmen and Priests in N. Britain AD 550–850
Allen Martin	The Durham Mint
Askew Gilbert	A Catalogue of Roman Coins
Beckensall Stan	Prehistoric Rock Art in Cumbria
Bishop M C (ed.)	Roman Inveresk: Past Present Future
Brown Iain G (ed)	Abbotsford and Sir Walter Scott
Cameron Alison S and Stones Judith A	Aberdeen: an in depth view of the City's past
Casey John and Reece Richard	Coins and the Archaeologist
Charlton Beryl et al,	Otterburn Training Area, Archaeology and Historic Environment Management Plan
Cullercoats Local History Society	Cullercoats
Davison Giles	Equestrian Statue of James II erected in Newcastle upon Tyne in 1688
De Bie Marc and Casper Jean-Paul	Rekem, A Federmesser Camp on the Meuse River Bank, 2 vols
Dodds Glen Lyndon	History of Sunderland: 2nd Ed.
Enright Dawn and Watts Martin	A Romano-British and Medieval Settlement Site at Stoke Rd Bishops Cleeve Gloucestershire.
Faulkener Thomas and Lowery Phoebe	Lost Houses of Newcastle and Northumberland
Fox H B Earle and Shirley	A Numismatic History of the Reigns of Edward I II and III
Fraser CM	Yorkshire Arch Soc , Wakefield Court Rolls 1, 5, 8 , 10, 11 and 13
Goodacre Hugh	A Handbook of the Coinage of the Byzantine Empire
Green L M and Bidwell P T	Heritage of the North Sea Region Conservation and Interpretation
Hardy Clive	Tyneside since 1900
Hawkes Jane	The Sandbach Crosses
Herschend Frands	Journey of Civilisation. the Late Iron age view of the Human World. OPIA 24
Higham N J (ed.)	Archaeology of the Roman Empire; a tribute to Barri Jones
Hill P R (ed.)	Polybius to Vegetius: Essays on the Roman Army and Hadrian's Wall presented to Brian Dobson
Hill P V, Kent J P C and Carson R A G	Late Roman Bronze Coinage 324–498 AD

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Holmes Nicholas	Excavation of Roman Sites at Cramond, Edinburgh
Jackson Keith	Wifred, Saint but not an Apostle (MA Dissertation)
Lekberg Per	Lives of Axes, Landscapes of People
Lewis John and Pringle Denys	Spynie Palace and the Bishops of Moray
Martins Susanna Wade	The English Model Farm; Building the Agricultural Ideal 1700–1914
Mass Jeffrey P	Sylloge of Coins of the British Isles 56
Maxwell Sir Herbert	The Chronicle of Lanercost, vol 1 and 2 reprint
Mayhew N J (ed)	Edwardian Monetary Affairs 1279–1344.
McCarthy Mike	Roman Carlisle and the Lands of the Solway
Meadows Peter and Waterson Edward	Lost Houses of County Durham
Meadows Peter and Waterson Edward	Lost Houses of the West Riding
Meadows Peter and Waterson Edward	Lost Houses of York and the North Riding
Metcalf D M (ed)	Coinage in Medieval Scotland
Neal David S and Cosh Stephen R	Roman Mosaics of Britain. Volume 1 Northern Britain
North J J	English Hammered Coinage
Price Neil S	The Viking Way. Religion and War in Late Iron Age Scandinavia
Reaney P H	The Origin of English Surnames
Rowland T H	Medieval Northumbria revised
Seaby Herbert Allen	Roman Silver Coins vol 1 and 2 Republic–Commodus
Seaby Herbert Allen	English Silver Coins 1066–1648 . Vol 1
Shere Gomshall and Peaslake	Local History Society, Shere; A Surrey Village in maps
Snape M G (ed)	English Episcopal Acta 24: Durham 1153–1195
Southwick Michael	North East Repositories 3rd Ed
Stephenson I P	The Anglo Saxon Shield
Thirkell Philip R G et al	Personal Names in Wills proved at Durham 1787–1803
Victor Helen	The Grave as a neighbour; On Bronze age ritual houses.
Watts Victor	A Dictionary of Place Names of County Durham
Welander Richard et al	The Stone of Destiny; Artefact and icon
Woolf Daniel	The Social Circulation of the Past; English Historical Culture 1500–1730

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

I would be very glad to have readers' comments or suggestions for the content of the Bulletin. I am also happy to receive contributions from members, but with the warning that pressure of space means that articles frequently have to be drastically cut, deferred, or dropped altogether. My address is 5 Goldspink Lane, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE2 1 NQ, phone 0191 232 2968, fax 0191 222 1559. E-mail is sue.ward@btinternet.com Deadline for the next edition will be 4 June 2004.